

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A carriage for supporting a recording head such that a clearance is present between the recording head supported by the carriage, and a recording medium, the carriage being reciprocated in a reciprocating direction intersecting a feeding direction in which the recording medium is fed, the carriage comprising:

a plurality of supporting portions having respective supporting points where the supporting portions engage and support the recording head; and

at least one adjusting device which moves the supporting point of at least one of the supporting portions toward, and away from, the recording medium, so as to adjust a degree of parallelism between the recording head and the recording medium with respect to the feeding direction.

2. The carriage according to claim 1, wherein the supporting portions comprise two upstream supporting portions and one downstream supporting portion with respect to the feeding direction, and wherein the adjusting device moves the supporting point of the downstream supporting portion.

3. The carriage according to claim 1, wherein the supporting portions comprise one upstream supporting portion and two downstream supporting portions with respect to the feeding direction, and wherein the carriage comprises two

adjusting devices which move the respective supporting points of the two downstream supporting portions.

4. The carriage according to claim 1, wherein the carriage has a head accommodating space which accommodates the recording head such that the head is detachable from the carriage and which opens toward a front side of the carriage, and wherein the supporting portions comprise at least one front supporting portion provided in the space, near to the front side of the carriage, and at least one rear supporting portion provided in the space, remote from the front side of the carriage.

5. The carriage according to claim 1, wherein the carriage comprises a plurality of adjusting devices which move, independent of each other, the respective supporting points of the supporting portions.

6. The carriage according to claim 3, wherein the two adjusting devices simultaneously move the respective supporting points of the two downstream supporting portions.

7. The carriage according to claim 1, wherein the adjusting device adjusts a height position of the supporting point of said at least one supporting portion.

8. The carriage according to claim 7, wherein

the adjusting device comprises a cam which is for adjusting the height position of the supporting point of said at least one supporting portion where said at least one supporting portion engages and supports the recording head.

9. The carriage according to claim 7, wherein the adjusting device comprises a screw which is rotatable for adjusting the height position of the supporting point of said at least one supporting portion where said at least one supporting portion engages and supports the recording head.

10. A carriage for supporting a recording head such that a clearance is present between the recording head supported by the carriage, and a recording medium, the carriage being reciprocated in a reciprocating direction intersecting a feeding direction in which the recording medium is fed, the carriage comprising:

a plurality of supporting portions having respective supporting points where the supporting portions engage and support the recording head; and

at least one adjusting device which moves the supporting point of at least one adjustable supporting portion of the supporting portions toward, and away from, the recording medium, the supporting portions further comprising at least one stationary supporting portion whose supporting point is stationary,

said at least one adjustable supporting portion being

provided at a downstream position in the feeding direction so as to define a downstream clearance between a downstream portion of the recording head and the recording medium,

said at least one stationary supporting portion being provided at an upstream position in the feeding direction so as to define an upstream clearance between an upstream portion of the recording head and the recording medium,

said at least one adjusting device moving the supporting point of said at least one adjustable supporting portion and thereby adjusting the downstream clearance between the downstream portion of the recording head and the recording medium.

11. The carriage according to claim 10, further comprising :

two side plates which extend perpendicularly to the reciprocating direction and cooperate with each other to define a head accommodating space to accommodate the recording head; and

a support bar which extends, at the downstream position in the feeding direction, perpendicularly to the two side plates and has opposite end portions that are respectively supported by the two side plates,

wherein the support bar supports said at least one adjustable supporting portion and said at least one adjusting device which moves the supporting point of said at least one adjustable supporting portion and thereby adjusts the

downstream clearance between the downstream portion of the recording head and the recording medium.

12. The carriage according to claim 11, further comprising two reinforcing plates which are fixed to the two side plates, respectively, and cooperate with each other to support the support bar.

13. The carriage according to claim 10, wherein the carriage comprises two upstream stationary supporting portions and one downstream adjustable supporting portion with respect to the feeding direction.

14. The carriage according to claim 13, wherein the two upstream stationary supporting portions are provided in vicinity of the two side plates, respectively, and the one downstream adjustable supporting portion is provided at a substantially middle position between the two side plates.

15. The carriage according to claim 10, wherein the carriage comprises one upstream stationary supporting portion and two downstream adjustable supporting portions with respect to the feeding direction.

16. The carriage according to claim 15, wherein the one upstream stationary supporting portion is provided at a substantially middle position between the two side plates, and

the two downstream adjustable supporting portions are provided in vicinity of the two side plates, respectively.

17. The carriage according to claim 11, wherein said at least one adjusting device comprises a cam which is supported by the support bar, and wherein the supporting point of said at least one adjustable supporting portion comprises an outer circumferential surface of the cam.

18. The carriage according to claim 11, wherein said at least one adjusting device comprises a screw which is screwed in a hole of the support bar such that the screw is movable in the hole of the support bar, and wherein the supporting point of said at least one adjustable supporting portion comprises an end surface of the screw.

19. A carriage for supporting a recording head such that a clearance is present between the recording head supported by the carriage, and a recording medium, the carriage being reciprocated along a guide bar in a reciprocating direction intersecting a feeding direction in which the recording medium is fed, the carriage comprising:

at least one through-hole through which the guide bar extends;

a plurality of supporting portions having respective supporting points where the supporting portions engage and support the recording head, and comprising at least one hole-side

supporting portion provided on a side of said at least one through-hole and at least one opposite-side supporting portion that is opposite to said at least one hole-side supporting portion with respect to the recording head; and

at least one adjusting device which moves the supporting point of at least one of the supporting portions toward, and away from, the recording medium, so as to adjust a degree of parallelism between the recording head and the recording medium with respect to the feeding direction.

20. The carriage according to claim 19, wherein the supporting portions comprise two hole-side supporting portions provided on the side of said at least one through-hole, and one opposite-side supporting portion opposite to the two hole-side supporting portions with respect to the recording head, and wherein the adjusting device moves the supporting point of the one opposite-side supporting portion.

21. The carriage according to claim 19, wherein the supporting portions comprise one hole-side supporting portion provided on the side of said at least one through-hole, and two opposite-side supporting portions opposite to the one hole-side supporting portion with respect to the recording head, and wherein the carriage comprises two adjusting devices which move the respective supporting points of the two opposite-side supporting portions.

22. An image recording apparatus, comprising:

a recording head which records an image on a recording medium;

a carriage which supports the recording head such that a clearance is present between the recording head supported by the carriage, and the recording medium, and which is reciprocated in a reciprocating direction intersecting a feeding direction in which the recording medium is fed,

the carriage comprising

a plurality of supporting portions having respective supporting points where the supporting portions engage and support the recording head, and

at least one adjusting device which moves the supporting point of at least one of the supporting portions toward, and away from, the recording medium, so as to adjust a degree of parallelism between the recording head and the recording medium with respect to the feeding direction;

a guide bar which guides the carriage such that the carriage is reciprocated in the reciprocating direction; and

a frame which holds the guide bar, supports the carriage, and cooperates with the guide bar to position the carriage relative to the recording medium.

23. The image recording apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the carriage supports the recording head comprising an ink jet recording head which outputs an ink toward the recording medium to record an image on the

recording medium.